

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 02380 230653Z

13

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 COME-00 SCI-06 L-03

IO-14 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CEA-02 INT-08

SMI-01 DODE-00 DRC-01 /095 W

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P R 230340Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3049

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, TBIO, SENV, AS

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION:

PROPOSED VIST OF NOAA TEAM

REF: (A) STATE 077344 NOTAL

(B) CANBERRA 6138 (NOTAL) (AND PREVIOUS)

1. BOLLEN, AUSTRALIA'S IWC COMMISSIONER, WELCOMES PROPOSED MAY 14-15 VISIT OF DR. ARON AND MRS. FOX BUT WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE TO SEE THEM FROM APPROXIMATELY 3 TO 8 P.M. ON MAY 14. BOLLEN REQUESTS MORE DETAILS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS VISITORS WANT TO DISCUSS SO THAT HE CAN PREPARE FOR MEETING. BOLLEN ALSO NOTES THAT HE CANNOT DISCUSS WITH CERTAINITY GOA POSITION AT JUNE IWC MEETING BECAUSE OF MAY 18 GENERAL ELECTIONS.

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PAGE 02 CANBER 02380 230653Z

2. EMBASSY ALSO WELCOMES PROPOSED VISIT AND HAS

RESERVED TWO SINGLE ROOMS AT THE CANBERRA REX HOTEL FOR MAY 14. WE WILL ALSO SEEK TO MAKE APPOINTMENT WITH OFFICIALS OF DEPARTMENTS OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION (DEC) AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) IF DESIRED. IF NOT, VISITORS MAY WANT TO RETURN TO SYDNEY EARLIER THAN 8:40 PM DEPARTURE TIME ON MAY 15 MENTIONED REFTTEL.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: ELECTION CAMPAIGN WILL BE REACHING CLIMAX DURING VISIT, AND PRESS MAY SEEK TO INVOLVE VISITORS. FY WHALING IS SENSITIVE ISSUE IN AUSTRALIA, PARTICULARLY IN WEST AUSTRALIAN "SWING" ELECTORATE OF FORREST, WHERE NATION'S ONLY WHALING STATION (CHEYNES BEACH) LOCATED. FORREST WAS ONE OF VERY FEW SEATS WHICH LABOR PARTY LOST TO LIBERALS IN 1972 ELECTIONS WHICH BROUGHT LABOR TO POWER. PRESENT GOA, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM, HAS BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO WHALE CONSERVATION AND NEED TO STRENGTHEN IWC (REF B AND PREVIOUS). HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY NOT WANT TO TAKE PUBLIC POSITION ON CLOSING OF CHEYNES BEACH IN WHAT PROMISES TO BE VERY CLOSE ELECTION. END FYI. EMBASSY HOPES DR. ARON AND MRS. FOX WILL RECOGNIZE NEED FOR AVOIDING ANY PUBLIC COMMENTS THAT MIGHT BE CONSTRUED TO INVOLVE USG IN ELECTION ISSUES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE SPECIFIC TOPICS VISITORS WISH TO RAISE WITH BOLLEN AND WHETHER DEC AND/OR DFA APPOINTMENTS DESIRED.  
GREEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SCIENTIFIC VISITS, MEETINGS, ELECTION FORECASTS  
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**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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